Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) A method comprising:

      a)   storing a plurality of types of medical items in a plurality of storage locations within a pharmacy;

      b)   storing in at least one data store in operative connection with at least one processor, data corresponding to each of the plurality of types of medical items and the corresponding storage locations within the pharmacy in which each of the plurality of types of medical items are stored;

      c)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of taking a first quantity of a first type of medical item from a first storage location in the pharmacy for use in a second location or in an activity;

      d)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (c), data representative of taking the first quantity of the first type of medical item from the first storage location for use in the second location or activity;

e)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of use of a second quantity of the first type of medical item at the second location or in the activity;

f)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (e) data representative of use of the second quantity of the first type of medical item at the second location or in the activity; and

g)   comparing through operation of at least one processor at least a portion of the data included in the data store in step (d) and in step (f).

2. (original) The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

h)   providing at least one output indicative of at least one difference between the data included in the data store in step (d) and step (f).

3. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein step (g) includes comparing the first quantity and the second quantity.

4. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein step (g) includes noting the absence of data related to the first type of medical item being stored in the data store in step (f).

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein:

step (c) includes providing at least one input indicative that the first quantity of the first type of medical item is being taken for stocking at a remote storage location outside the pharmacy which remote storage location the first type of medical item is taken for use by patients; and

wherein step (e) further includes providing at least one input indicative that the second quantity of the first type of medical item has been stocked at the remote storage location.

6. (original) The method according to claim 5 and further comprising:

h)   providing at least one input through at least one input device adjacent the remote storage location indicative that a third quantity of the first type of medical item had been taken for use by a patient;

i)   including data in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (h) indicative that the third quantity of the first type of medical item has been taken for use by the patient.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6 and further comprising the step of:

   j)   returning a fourth quantity of the first type of medical item from the

           remote storage location to the pharmacy;

   k)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of

           returning the fourth quantity of the first type of medical item from the

           remote storage location to the pharmacy;

   l)   including data in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input

           provided in step (k) indicative that the fourth quantity of the first type of

           medical item is being returned from the remote location to the pharmacy.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7 and further comprising:

   m)   comparing through operation of at least one processor the first, second,

           third and fourth quantities of the first type of medical item.

9. (original) The method according to claim 8 further comprising:

   n)   producing responsive to the comparison in step (m) at least one output

           indicative of an unaccounted for portion of the first type of medical item.

10. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (c) the at least one input is indicative of use of the first quantity of the first type of medical item in a compounding activity.

11. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10 and wherein step (e) includes providing at least one input indicative of wasting a second quantity of the first type of medical item.

12. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 and further comprising:

    h)   creating a compound using the first type of medical item;

    i)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of storing in at least one storage location in the pharmacy the compound created using the first type of medical item;

    j)   including in at least one data store, data responsive to the at least one input provided in step (i) data representative of storing the compound in the at least one storage location in the pharmacy.

13. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 12 wherein the second quantity indicated in step (e) as being wasted comprises a portion of the first quantity of the first type of medical item which is wasted in creating the compound, and further comprising:

k)   comparing the first quantity, the second quantity and an amount of the compound indicated as stored in the pharmacy in step (i).

14. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 13 and further comprising:

l)   providing at least one input through at least one input device responsive to the comparison in step (k) indicating a discrepancy;

m)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (l) data representative of the discrepancy indicated in step (l).

15. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

h)   borrowing a third quantity of a second type of medical item from another facility;

i)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of borrowing the third quantity of the second type of medical item from the another facility; and

j)   including in at least one data store data representative of borrowing the

third quantity of the second type of medical item from the another facility.

16. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 and further comprising:

k)   including in at least one data store, data representative of storing the third

quantity of the second type of medical item in at least one storage location

in the pharmacy.

17. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 and further comprising:

k)   returning the third quantity of the second type of medical item to the

another facility;

l)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of

returning the third quantity of the second type of medical item to the

another facility; and

m)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input

provided in step (l) data representative of the returning of the third

quantity of the second type of medical item to the another facility.

18. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 and further comprising:

    generating through operation of at least one processor an electronic representation of a government-approved drug monitoring form corresponding to the borrowing of the second type of medical item concerning which data is input in step (i).

19. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

    h)   loaning a third quantity of a second type of medical item to another facility;

    i)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of loaning the third quantity of the second type of medical item to the another facility;

    j)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (i), data representative of loaning the third quantity of the second type of medical item to the another facility.

20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 and further comprising:

k)   generating through operation of at least one processor an electronic

representation of a government-approved drug monitoring form

corresponding to the loan of the second type of medical item concerning

which data is input in step (j).

21. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 20 wherein in step (k) at least one field in the

electronic representation of the form is populated automatically through operation of the at least

one processor.

22. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 and further comprising:

k)   receiving a return of the loan of the third quantity of the second type of

medical item from the another facility;

l)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of

the return of the third quantity of the second type of medical item from the

another facility;

m)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input

provided in step (l), data representative of the return of the third quantity

of the second type of medical item from the another facility.

23. (original) Computer readable media operative to cause at least one processor to carry out the method steps recited in claim 1.

24. (previously presented) A method comprising:

(a) storing medical items in storage locations within a pharmacy, wherein medical items stored in a first pharmacy storage location have a first medical item characteristic, wherein medical items stored in a second pharmacy storage location have a second medical item characteristic, and wherein the first medical item characteristic differs from the second medical item characteristic;

(b) storing data linking medical item characteristics to pharmacy storage locations, wherein the first medical item characteristic is linked to the first pharmacy storage location, and wherein the second medical item characteristic is linked to the second pharmacy storage location;

(c) taking a medical item amount from the first pharmacy storage location;

(d) storing data representative of taking the amount from the first pharmacy storage location;

(e)   using a quantity of the amount taken in step (c);

(f)   storing data representative of using the quantity;

(g)   comparing data stored in step (d) and data stored in step (f), including comparing data representative of the medical item amount taken in step (c) and data representative of the quantity used in step (e);

(h)   responsive to a difference resulting from the comparing in step (g), providing at least one output indicative of the difference.

25. (withdrawn) A method comprising:

(a)   storing medical items in storage locations within a pharmacy, wherein medical items stored in a first pharmacy storage location have a first medical item characteristic, wherein medical items stored in a second pharmacy storage location have a second medical item characteristic, and wherein the first medical item characteristic differs from the second medical item characteristic;

(b)   storing data linking medical item characteristics to pharmacy storage locations, wherein the first medical item characteristic is linked to the first

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pharmacy storage location, and wherein the second medical item

characteristic is linked to the second pharmacy storage location;

(c)   taking a first medical item amount from the first pharmacy storage

location;

(d)   storing data representative of taking the first amount from the first

pharmacy storage location;

(e)   wasting a second amount of the first amount taken in step (c);

(f)   storing data representative of wasting the second amount;

(g)   comparing data stored in step (d) and data stored in step (f), including

comparing data representative of the first amount taken in step (c) and data

representative of the second amount wasted in step (e).